

Children's Justice Act Committee
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Conference Call
Thursday, July 23, 2020
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Detective Thomas Pyles, Chair
Dr. Kerry Hannan, Vice Chair
Yorri Berry
Mary-Ann Burkhart
Michelle Chudow
Stephanie Cooke
Arnie Eby
Elizabeth Hall
Ed Kilcullen
Krista Trahan

Guest:

Susan Hansell, Maryland Children's Alliance
Scott Hollander, KidsVoice Pittsburgh
Dr. Jennifer Wolford, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Staff:

Angela Cromwell, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Kelly Gorman, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
William Jernigan, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

I. Welcome

Det. Pyles called the meeting to order at approximately 1:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Gorman took attendance to ensure everyone on the call was marked as present.

III. Approval of Minutes (April 2020)

Minutes from the April 2020 meeting were provided to members. No members opposed approval. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Partnering with CACs during COVID-19

Mr. Hollander and Dr. Wolford provided a presentation to the committee on the partnership between KidsVoice and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Child Advocacy Center during the coronavirus pandemic. KidsVoice is a non-profit agency that advocates in court and in the community on educational, medical, mental health, and social security matters.

In the past several months, COVID-19 has caused collateral damage to children's health care. Due to many suspended routine well child visits at primary care offices or cancelled visits by parents/caregivers, immunization rates show a dangerous decline, children's mental health needs are not assessed, prescription medications are not refilled, and developmental evaluations are not completed, among many others. Where and how care can be delivered continues to change. KidsVoice and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Child Advocacy Center work together to continue offering clinical services to children and youth by sharing resources.

The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh CHECS Program reviews medical records, identifies dangerous health situations, triages children's health care needs, helps make a plan for getting caught up, explains and teaches medical needs to families, case workers, and attorneys, and educates key stakeholders about priorities. The CHECS Program in partnership with KidsVoice, utilizes each other's resources to continue providing services to children and youth. These services include:

- Four skilled health care workers combining health care knowledge and working knowledge of Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Utilizing skills sets and capitalizing on clinical down time
- Bridging a key gap of concerns for children's unmet health care needs during this dangerous time
- Supporting KidsVoice staff knowledge
- Providing education for clients and families

V. ChildFirst Discussion

Ms. Hansell presented updates to the committee on the ChildFirst Training grant proposal. ChildFirst in partnership with the Zero Abuse Project will host three virtual training sessions between October 2020 and September 2021. Registration will be capped at 30 participants. Maryland Children's Alliance will take on the planning, implementation, oversight, and facilitation of the training.

Ms. Burkhart made a motion to accept the transfer of the ChildFirst Training program to be administered by Maryland's Children's Alliance. Mr. Eby seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. Grant Updates

Ms. Cromwell informed members that she is in the process of reviewing the current CJAC funding awards to determine awards for their second year continuation of funding. There will be no Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) this year. Award recommendations will be based on program performance with the understanding that certain programs were not able to accomplish everything in their grant this past year due to the coronavirus. This will not affect second year funding recommendations.

VII. Old/New Business

Ms. Gorman provided the committee with feedback provided by the Children's Bureau from the FY20 federal CJAC application. The review committee was interested in reading about the Kiddie Court program, the Wellness Training program for MDT staff, and the Trauma-Informed Service and Environment Enhancement Project. Maryland was also recognized for improving access and availability of training, specifically the Baltimore County CAC Wellness training leading to increased staff retention rates. Recommendations from the Children's Bureau's include:

- Adding a member with experience in child neglect related to substance use disorders
- Adding a member with a specialization in trauma-informed assessments
- Look into the potential for evaluating the effectiveness of training

Ms. Gorman also provided CJAC membership updates. There are currently two seats open on the committee. One seat for a criminal and/or civil judge and one seat for a defense attorney. Ms. Gorman is reaching out to potential new members within the Office of the Public Defender to gauge interest and preparing for interviews. Chief Judge Barbera is providing a recommendation to the committee to fill the open judge seat. The committee will be notified when the seats are filled.

Ms. Gorman reminded members to submit recommendations on priority issues for SCCAN to discuss for the coming year, as well as topics you would like SCCAN to prioritize and/or speakers to hear from. SCCAN will be hosting their annual retreat virtually on September 3, 2020. For more information and recommendation submissions, please reach out to Ms. Gorman and/or Ms. Wheeler, or Claudia Remington, SCCAN Executive Director.

Next Meeting
October 15, 2020

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Google Meet Link